

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 2126

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 14294

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, ET, US

SUBJECT: ASSURANCES REGARDING HAILE SELASSIE AND POLITICAL
PRISONERS

REFS: (A) ADDIS 14147; (B) ADDIS 14159

1. AT 1700 DECEMBER 2 MOFA'S AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DIRG READ ME FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO REPRESENTATIONS REPORTED IN REFTELS.

2. QUOTE. THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL APPRECIATES THE CONSIDERATIONS WHICH MOTIVATED THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO SEND THE MESSAGE. THE PMAC IS AWARE THAT PRESS REPORTS WITHOUT ANY FOUNDATION WHATSOEVER BASED ON MALICIOUS RUMOURS HAVE FOUND THEIR WAY TO VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS, RADIO STATIONS AND TELEVISION NETWORKS. STRANGELY ENOUGH NOT ONLY ARE THESE REPORTS FILED WITHOUT OBTAINING THE COMMENTS OF THE PMAC BUT DENIALS OF THESE REPORTS ARE SELDOM GIVEN EQUAL PUBLICITY.

3. QUOTE. THE PMAC WISHES TO ASSURE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THAT THE PMAC HAS NEVER CONTEMPLATED TO EXECUTE THE EX-EMPEROR, WHO IS RECEIVING HUMANE TREATMENT. THE PMAC HAS FURTHER TAKEN ALL MEASURES NECESSARY TO ASSURE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE EX-EMPEROR.

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4. QUOTE. THE PMAC WISHES TO REITERATE THAT THERE WOULD BE FAIR

TRIAL OF THE DETAINEES IN CUSTODY UNDER THE LAWS EXISTING IN THE COUNTRY. THESE DETAINEES ARE ALSO RECEIVING HUMANE TREATMENT.

5. QUOTE. THE PMAC HOPES THE ABOVE STATEMENTS WILL ALLAY ANY APPREHENSION THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE HAD ABOUT THE FATE OF THE EX-EMPEROR AND OTHER DETAINEES. UNQUOTE.

6. HAMID ALSO SAID THAT AMBASSADOR KIFLE HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO REPLY TO THE TELEGRAM OF THE 33 SENATORS REGARDING HAILE SELASSIE (STATE 262239).
WYMAN

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